

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03977

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR, SP, US
SUBJECT: BRIEFING THE SPANISH ON THE NATO SUMMIT

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REFS: (A) MADRID 3672 (DTG 061249Z APR 78),
(B) MADRID 3922 (DTG 121827Z APR 78)

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1. A CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT THE DESIRE OF JUAN DURAN, SPANISH CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE US-SPANISH AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO, FOR A PRE-SUMMIT AS WELL AS POST-SUMMIT US BRIEFING (REF A). WE SUPPORT SHARING WITH SPAIN AS MUCH INSIGHT INTO NATO AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REVERSE DURAN'S FORMULATION AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF REF B AND PLAN, AT MOST, TO INCLUDE SOMETHING ON THE NATO SUMMIT IN THE NORMAL POST-DPC BRIEFING. ALLIES WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT SUCH A FORMULATION, ASSUMING THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE BRIEFING, ALTHOUGH THE LINK BETWEEN THE DPC AND THE SUMMIT WILL BE CLOSER THAN THE NORMAL LINK BETWEEN DPC AND NAC MINISTERIALS.

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2. IN OUR VIEW, SOME ALLIES WOULD NOT WELCOME THE US PROVIDING SPAIN A PRE-SUMMIT BRIEFING PER SE. SUCH A BRIEFING WOULD INEVITABLY TAKE PLACE AMIDST INTENSIVE ACTIVITY AT NATO AND IN CAPITALS TO COMPLETE INITIAL WORK ON THE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN AT THE LONDON SUMMIT AND TO COORDINATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES WHICH MAY BE PROPOSED PRIOR TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING. THE LTDP, IN PARTICULAR, WILL REQUIRE

FINANCIAL DECISIONS BY THE ALLIES. AS A RESULT, WE BELIEVE THEY WILL BE MORE SKITTISH THAN USUAL ABOUT WHAT THE US SAYS TO THIRD PARTIES IN THE DAYS JUST PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT.

3. A PRE-SUMMIT BRIEFING MAY BE ONE OF THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN WE RISK SPENDING A DIME TO EARN A NICKEL. EVEN A DPC READ-OUT WILL BE TRICKIER THAN USUAL. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT ANY BRIEFING OF THE SPANISH BE MORE IN LINE WITH THE NORMAL POST-DPC BRIEFINGS AND THAT THE SPANISH BE ALERTED IN ADVANCE THAT FORECASTS REGARDING THE SUMMIT CAN BE ONLY VERY GENERAL IN NATURE. GLITMAN

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